

**Title:**

Design and Politics in Czech

**Summary:**

Design and Politics in the Czech Republic (Czechoslovakia)

The first official organization for design was established by the Czechoslovakian government in 1964. Since it was prohibited to use a word “design” in the name of the newly established organization, because it promoted the “forbidden style” of Western Europe, the organization was called The Council for Creative Culture of the Production. The Council was composed of ministries’ representatives and the secretariat, which focused on design exhibitions and their evaluation. The Council also began to cooperate on the international level. In 1967, the Czechoslovakian Council was accepted into the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID).

After the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968, the Council for Creative Culture of the Production was renamed according to soviet standard to the Institute of Technological Aesthetics. The Institute continued in its work, focusing mainly on exhibitions and project exchanges solely with other socialist countries.

After the Velvet Revolution in 1989, Czechoslovakia was in 1993 divided into two separate states – the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. And so was the Institute, which was replaced by two new distinct design organizations. The Design Center of the Czech Republic has evolved in a very promising way. It has cooperated with western countries and it has been accepted into another two international organizations – ICOGRADA (graphic design) and IFI (interior design). In 2000, the Design Center was accepted into BEDA, the European organization, which associates the European design organizations and cooperates with the European Union. Moreover, the Center was elected to the BEDA’s council and participated in preparing the cooperation with the EU on various projects. The Center also arranged a world conference of BEDA and ICOGRADA organizations with the theme of Graphic Design. The best students of Czech design schools were also invited to the conference and thus got the opportunity to win recognition in the international arena.

In 2007, the Minister of Industry and Trade Martin Říman decided to dissolve the Design Center. Thus, due to this decision, the Czech Republic has become the only European country without any design government organization for the management and maintenance of design in the economic culture.